

opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Guest article:

## “I Cannot Live With You, I Cannot Live Without You”: TURKISH - EU RELATIONS

Ilter Turan, Professor, Istanbul Bilgi University



When the Treaty of Rome came into effect in 1959, Turkey along with Greece were the first countries to search for an association with the EEC. Negotiations for an agreement, which were quickly commenced, were interrupted by a military intervention in 1960, but they were resumed after the return of civilian politics. The Ankara Association Agreement was signed in 1963, laying down preparations for a roadmap for Turkey’s journey into EEC membership. It took more than seven years to prepare the Additional Protocol describing the three-

stage 22 year process of preparing Turkey for membership. Everyone seemed content.

Let us recall the conditions under which this relationship was developing. The Cold War was raging; Turkey was an important partner in the defence of Europe against threats emanating from the Warsaw Pact. After an interim of neutrality during the interwar period and during World War II, Turkey, feeling threatened by the Soviets, had thrown its lot in with the West. From that point on, a cardinal rule of Turkish foreign policy had become “do not stay out of the institutional developments for cooperation in Western Europe and the Atlantic Community.” For its part, after the forming of the Atlantic Alliance, under American prodding, Western Europe had reluctantly come to recognize the potential Turkey would add to ensuring the security of the “Free World”, therefore accommodating Turkish desires to be incorporated into the European framework ...

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projects \_\_\_\_\_

## EIR’s Participation to the Project “European Parliament Votes that Shaped EU and National Politics 2009-2014”

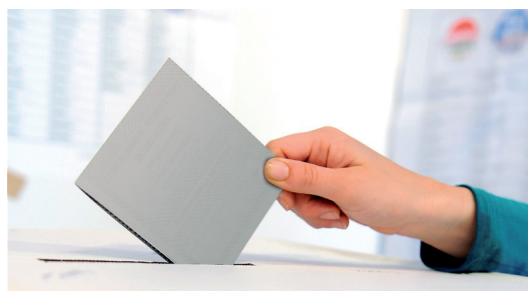
“Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute” and Vote Watch Europe have recently launched the project „European Parliament Votes that Shaped EU and National Politics 2009-2014”, meant to increase the participation and awareness among citizens regarding ...

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From the very beginning, the Turkish-EEC (and its subsequent forms) relationship had problematic aspects. Turkey's earlier linkages with the Western Europe-Atlantic Community were in organizations such as NATO, Council of Europe and the OECD. Not only did these organizations have well defined, specific functions, but neither of them envisioned a future evolution that would require transfer of sovereignty to an international organization. Furthermore, Turkey, who was pursuing a policy of import substitution, oriented towards economic development, was hesitant at the time to become involved in a framework that would open its markets unimpededly to European goods. Therefore, Turkey moved slowly towards the expansion of the relationship, making sure, on the one hand, that it would not rupture and, on the other hand, that it would not limit its options to pursue its independent economic and social policies.

For its part, EEC was happy that Turkey and Greece had taken it seriously in its beginning. But it considered itself to be a club of developed economies and therefore was not in a rush to incorporate these two poor countries in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean into its core. Step by step, as it expanded its goals of becoming a union of democracies, characterized by the rule of law, respect for human rights and operating market economies, whether Turkey would fit into such a scheme came to be questioned more and more. In the meantime, EEC (EC, EU) began expanding. After the end of the military dictatorship in Greece, upon the insistence of the then-President of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Greece was accepted to membership to ensure that it would not revert to dictatorial government, although the Commission had reported that Greece was not ready for membership. Spain and Portugal also became members. After the break-up of the Warsaw Pact and the demise of the USSR, other European countries were accepted into the Union, irrespective of whether they were ready for membership or not. Currently, the EU is working to bring countries of the Western Balkans into the organization. In the meantime, the importance of Turkey's indispensability for Europe's defence appeared initially to decrease, leading to questions on whether Turkey, with its different culture (read religion), could and should become part of a "European" organization.

Within this broad framework, there have been ups and downs in the relationship. Turkey's turning to export-led growth and the reasonable success enjoyed by that policy, made it possible for the parties to sign a Customs Union Agreement in 1996 as set forth in the Ankara Agreement and its Additional Protocols that have contributed to a major expansion of the economic relationship. When the big expansion into Eastern Europe excluded Turkey in 1997, the relations bordered on rupture. The invitation to become a member in 1999 opened the way for improvement. When the Justice and Development Party came to power in 2002, it saw the EU connection as a resource it could mobilize to justify its policies to further democratize the Turkish political system. The decision to initiate accession negotiations in 1994 created further enthusiasm. The lack of excitement for Turkish membership as shown by the questions raised by Merkel's Germany, on the one hand, and the categorical resistance from Sarkozy's France, on the other hand, has dampened the appetite of the Turkish government to bring about change to conform to EU conditionalities. Public support for EU membership has also shifted along with the ups and downs of the relationship.

Several serious impediments stand in the way of Turkey's membership. The concern that Turkey's membership would seriously undermine the Franco-German domination of Europe is a major problem not discussed publicly, but admitted privately. Cyprus membership constitutes another barrier and will continue to do so until a solution is found, an unlikely outcome as long as Cyprus feels that Turkey will eventually throw in the towel in order to become a member. Yet, there is no question that the EU would become stronger both economically and in international politics with Turkey as a member. If Turkey's accession becomes a serious possibility, Turkish public would turn highly supportive of this development. Otherwise, the current relationship, best characterized as "I cannot live with you and I cannot live without you" will continue with the unpredictable outcomes it entails.

**Ilter Turan**

## MyVote2014.eu: Which Politicians Do You Match With?

On 25 May 2014, the European citizens will have the opportunity of electing their representatives in the European Parliament. With more at stake than before (the results of the elections will determine not only the political trajectory of the European Parliament in the next 5 years, but also the nomination of the European Commission's President), it remains to be seen if the



citizens will be motivated enough to cast their votes and finally reverse the decreasing trend of participation in EU elections. While general turnout to the polls hit a new low of the EP direct elections - 43% in 2009, youth turnout dropped to a more alarming 29%. **Vote Watch Europe**, the independent organization which monitors the voting records of the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers, is interested in stimulating the youth's appetite in EU affairs and is determined to spread the word on the impact of the election's results on the day to day lives of young people.

MyVote2014.eu was launched on the 18 September in Brussels, in partnership with the European Youth Forum/League of Young Voters. The tool, launched in six languages, is **specifically targeting voters between 18 and 35 and first time voters**. It includes a website and a Facebook and Smartphone application. Described by VoteWatch policy director, Doru Franțescu, as *"political dating for the Facebook generation"*, the tool offers users the opportunity to cast their votes on 15 issues that shaped the activity of the European Parliament in the last 5 years, and then compare their results with the votes of individual deputies, EU political groups or national parties.



In Mr. Franțescu's words: *"We're showing voters what issues can play a role in their choice of vote, but we try to do it in a fun and interesting way [...] we want to show young people that MEPs don't all vote the same way. On many issues there are big differences between the different political parties represented in the European Parliament, so it matters who you support in next year's elections"*.

Apart from voting on key issues such as immigration, nuclear energy or the controversial ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement), the users can find explanations on all selected issues in very accessible language, and also test their knowledge of the European Union through an exciting game. MyVote2014.eu hopes to reach a target of 3 million visitors on their website by May 2014. It has already generated a very positive feedback, both the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso and the President of the

European Parliament, Martin Schulz, praised the initiative and invited young people to visit the website.

Young voters can try the new tool and cast their votes at the following addresses:

Website: <http://www.myvote2014.eu/en/home>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MyVote2014.eu>

For more information, you may contact Mr. Doru Franțescu, VoteWatch Europe Policy Director, at [doru@votewatcheurope.eu](mailto:doru@votewatcheurope.eu).

**Alexandra Pop**  
Research Assistant - VoteWatch Europe, former EIR intern



## EIR's Participation to the Project “European Parliament Votes that Shaped EU and National Politics 2009-2014”

“Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute” and Vote Watch Europe have recently launched the project „European Parliament Votes that Shaped EU and National Politics 2009-2014”, meant to increase the participation and awareness among citizens regarding the next year`s European elections. The initiative is a result of the report “10 Votes that Shaped the 7th European Parliament - Positions of European groups and national party delegations”, published by Vote Watch Europe. Until now many research institutes and think-tanks in Member States have joined the project, including the European Institute of Romania (EIR). The project activities include: the development and dissemination of online publications and the organization of European and national debates regarding the positions adopted by various political groups of EP between 2009-2014. The project partners intend to conduct an analysis of the most important resolutions adopted by the European Parliament in 2009-2014, which should also reflect national debates and the way they shaped and transformed European policies.

The project will explore in detail topics such as: maintaining agricultural subsidies as a budgetary priority for the EU, the Eurobonds, the EU standardisation of the maternity leave, shale gas exploitation, the gradual transition away from nuclear power, the introduction of financial transaction tax and the adoption of ACTA, among other things. Presently, one of the most important topics is considered to be the transatlantic free trade area between EU and US. The resolution called „Trade and Investment Agreements Negotiations with US” was voted with a convincing majority in the European Parliament<sup>1</sup>. The only abstentions came from the Greens, the GUE-NGL and the French MEPs from S&D and ALDE groups.



Source: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/european\\_parliament/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament/)

The analysis will focus on the way in which different parliamentary groups voted in the Parliament, starting from the general finding that in most cases, the MEPs voted according to their political families ideologies. However, there were some cases when due to strongly different opinions between Member States, the MEPs distanced themselves from the ideology of their political groups.

EIR will be involved in all activities of the project, which will be concluded shortly before the elections in May 2014, with a general conference organized by Notre Europe and Vote Watch Europe in Brussels for publicly debating the research results.

Robert Lupițu, intern

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NEWS 7 – 10 October Session, Strasbourg

The members of the European Parliament debated during this plenary session several topics of the EU Security Policy, ranging from **Strengthening cross-border law-enforcement cooperation** in the EU, to **Roma issues**, as well as to **EU and Member State measures to manage the flow of refugees as a result of the conflict in Syria**. In his address, Commissioner Michel Barnier stated the Council and the Commission’s position regarding the measures to be taken by the EU and Member States to cope with the refugees fleeing Syria. He pointed out the role of a well-functioning FRONTEX and security policy and emphasized the need to simultaneously bear in mind international solidarity and the protection of EU citizens. Other interventions indicated that, while in the EU, Syrian refugees will learn about democracy and acquire new skills and they

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.votewatch.eu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/VoteWatch\\_Europe\\_2013\\_Annual\\_report\\_web\\_10\\_votes\\_that\\_shaped\\_the\\_7th\\_EP.pdf](http://www.votewatch.eu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/VoteWatch_Europe_2013_Annual_report_web_10_votes_that_shaped_the_7th_EP.pdf)



Source: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/european\\_parliament/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament/)

can become factors in reconstructing their country. The EP debated the proposal for holding a conference on refugees. Many Member States have already provided accommodation for thousands of refugees.

The debates also addressed migrant rights, based on the report **Migratory flows in the Mediterranean**, with particular attention to the tragic events off the coast of Lampedusa, as migrants are heading to Europe as if it were an Eldorado. The proposal for a regulation establishing the **European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR)** was debated and approved. It starts from the premise that the establishment of the system is necessary in order to strengthen the information exchange and operational cooperation between national authorities of Member States as well as with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation

at the External Borders of the Member States. The document provides definitions for terms like 'situational awareness', meaning the ability to monitor, detect, identify, track and understand illegal cross-border activities in order to find reasoned grounds for reaction measures on the basis of combining new information with existing knowledge, and to reduce loss of lives of migrants at, along or in the proximity of the external borders. For the exchange of information and cooperation in the field of border surveillance and, taking into account the existing information exchange and cooperation mechanisms, Member States and the Agency will use the **EUROSUR** framework, consisting of the following components: (a) national coordination centres; (b) national situational pictures; (c) communication network; (d) European situational picture; (e) common pre-frontier information picture etc.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety proposed a resolution on **Permitted health claims made on foods**, and the Committee on Fisheries presented the EU-Mauritania fishing opportunities and financial contribution Protocol.

One of the most discussed reports, submitted by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was **Corruption in the public and private sectors**: the impact on human rights in third countries. The preamble indicates that where corruption is generally deeply entrenched in the mentality of the societies where it permeates, all efforts to combat it should focus first and foremost on the education system, targeting people at the earliest age possible. Concerning the *Accountability and transparency of external aid and public budgets*, the report urges the EU to further transparency by supporting the creation of a global system to track aid engagements, in order to be able to determine donor countries to fulfil their promises of aid and to take responsibility for the projects, institutions or groups that they support. In the section *Corruption and development policies*, the report recalls the commitments undertaken through the Busan Partnership for Effective Development, and calls on the EU and its Member States to implement them in order to intensify the joint efforts to fight corruption and illicit money flows.

The Committee on Fisheries' report - **For a comprehensive EU fishery strategy in the Pacific Region** - starts from the finding that the EU is the second leading donor in this region after Australia. Though channelling its assistance through the European Development Fund (EDF) and despite fisheries resources being the main source of wealth of the Pacific ACP countries and the only resource common to them all, only 2.3 % of assistance under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF is allotted to fisheries-related activities. The overall strategy outlined in the report calls for greater coordination and complementarity with other actors in the region in relation to development assistance, in keeping with the Cairns Compact of August 2009. The holding on 12 June 2012 of the second EU-PIF ministerial meeting strengthened the EU-Pacific political dialogue, in particular in the fields of fisheries and development, thereby ensuring that actions taken in these areas by the EU and countries in the region will be more effective. The report notes that the EU's strategy for accessing fisheries resources of the countries in the region by way of cooperation agreements has not worked properly, and considers that a new framework for relations between the parties involved is needed in order to revitalise and consolidate those agreements.

The European Council and the Council submitted for debate the **2011 Discharge**. The document quoted the **Opinion of the Court of Auditors on the European Council and Council** in its statement of assurance for the financial year 2011, which notes the Council's explanations concerning the procurement shortcomings and its assurance of full respect for the principles of the Financial Regulation. It is expected that future annual activity reports, which are received by the Parliament and the Council, will include a comprehensive overview of all human resources broken down by category, grade, sex, nationality and participation in professional training courses, as well as the internal budget decisions of the Council.

Debates on human rights were included in this session as well. For example, debates on **Caste-based discrimination** started from answers given by High Commissioner Catherine Ashton to questions directed by MEPs at both the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

For details, go to: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/ro>

Mariana Bara

## European Union's Eastern Partnership

The Titulescu European Foundation (Fundatia Europeana Titulescu - FET) organised, on 17 October, a debate on the *Eastern Partnership of the European Union - offensive and counteroffensive*. In the context of the preparations for the Vilnius Summit which could be, according to many analysts, decisive for the future of the Eastern Partnership initiative, FET undertook to approach the evolutions of the dialogue between EU and the partner states from different perspectives, seemingly contradictory but, at a closer look, potentially complementary.

The debate was intended to draw a parallel between the Eastern Partnership (EaP) - EU's offensive - and the Eurasian Customs Union - Russia's counteroffensive. The level of excellence of the introductory expositions delivered by three former Foreign Affairs ministers and a researcher specialised in Eastern issues was completed by the straight-forward, firm and - I would say - daring nuances of the lively dialogue among the speakers, as well as with the audience.

Different visions were presented during the event.

Mr. **Adrian Severin**, Member of the European Parliament, centred his speech on pragmatism, focusing on the tough aspects of the negotiations between the EU and the partner states in the framework of the neighbourhood policy. The constant parallel between EU's vision and actions and those of the Russian Federation was the distinctive feature of the discourse. In his opinion, the European Union had in mind for EaP a course based on the promotion of *European values* among partner states, while the Russian Federation constantly pointed out the *strategic importance* of the region, which is not related to values, but to the balance of power. The speaker mentioned EU's incapacity to agree upon its own interests, the failure in defining its own geostrategic interest, compensating with talk on values and bringing to the fore an agenda of national policies, and not a uniform policy - common vision of the member states. The Russian Federation expressed its position firmly, as it stated publicly that it opposes that, for example, Ukraine signed an association agreement with the EU. In the speaker's view, the Russian Federation should not be condemned for pursuing its own policy; it is the EU who has a problem in not defining more clearly its own policy. In these circumstances, the Vilnius Summit appears as a dramatic moment. Ukraine is being pressured to steer away from the EU as Ukraine is practically the whole stake of the summit. The potential failure to sign the agreement would equate, in the speaker's opinion, with the end of EaP and of EU's credibility before the Eastern partners and others as well. Mr. Severin considers that the strategic stakes are huge. A failure would also mean missing the opportunity of a true strategic partnership between EU and Russia.

Mr. **Adrian Cioroianu**, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of History of the Bucharest University, expressed an optimistic view regarding the evolution of the Eastern Partnership. A supporter of the setting up and further evolution of this project, the speaker pointed out the EU's still phenomenal attraction capacity which derives from a certain *soft power* which the Russian Federation lacks completely. He mentioned that the Russian Federation needs to stop the constant sabotage on the Republic of Moldova, as concerns the trade in wine, as well as other products. In his opinion, the Vilnius Summit will mark yet



another EU victory, as the project launched in 2009 by Poland and Sweden cannot fall so easily victim to conflicts, based on strategic and economic interests, present in the relations between the Russian Federation and the EaP partner states.

Mr. **Adrian Năstase**, President of the Titulescu European Foundation, pointed out a third scenario, the so-called *status-quo*, likely to happen if a fundamental decision were not reached at the summit. Just initialling the agreement with Moldova, for instance, can lead to another year of complex political games. Drawing a parallel between EU's offer and that of the Russian Federation, the speaker pointed out that EU offers values, theories, extremely small benefits, while the Russian Federation offers free access to an immense market, travel without visas, jobs, gas etc.

Ms. **Simona Soare**, Project Manager at the East-European and Asian Studies Centre, Bucharest, focused on the theoretical side of the Eastern Partnership, bringing up the EaP partner states that see the Vilnius Summit from a transformational perspective. In her view, partiality to the *now or never* option is wrong, the strategic stake of the EaP being 'to build endurance and resilience', while marking EU's efforts not to transform the Vilnius stakes in a bilateral matter with the Russian Federation.

Mr. **Iurie Reniță**, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Romania, guest to the event, reaffirmed that his country's integration in the EU remains the firm option of the political class and of the population and expressed his confidence in the future of the Eastern Partnership and the concrete benefits it can bring to partner states.

In this context, it remains to be seen what will be the results of the Vilnius Summit in November, this year, and the evolution of the relation between the EU and the partner states in the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative.

Furthermore, the future of the Eurasian Customs Union promoted by Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, and whether it will succeed in attracting more partner states to the disadvantage of the association process to the European Union, also remains an open question.

For further details, please visit: <http://www.titulescu.eu/2013/10/parteneriatul-estic-al-uniunii-europene-ofensiva-si-contraoferensiva/>

Oana Mocanu



## Conference: Romania at the Council of Europe – Past and Perspectives

### Influences of the Council of Europe on Romania

The date of 7 October 1993 represents the moment when Romania acceded to the Council of Europe. This year, on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important moment, the Titulescu European Foundation organized the conference *Romania at the Council of Europe - past and perspectives* and also the essay competition *Human Rights are my rights too*, addressed to youth aged between 16 and 25 years old.

Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, State Secretary for Strategic Affairs at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ionuț Stroe, MP, President of the Romanian Delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mrs. Ludmila Sfîrloagă, President of the Romanian delegation at the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities, Mrs. Catrinel Brumar, Romanian Government Agent at ECHR, Mr. Gyorgy Frunda, Honorary Counsellor of the Prime-Minister on Legal, International and Minorities Matters, former President of the Romanian Parliamentary Delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe were among the guests of the conference. Mr. Arsen Mykayelyan, Attaché, presented the message of His Excellency Mr. Hamlet Gasparian, Ambassador of Armenia to Bucharest, country which holds, at present, the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The speeches highlighted the Romanian activity at the Council of Europe, as regards the European Court of Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities.

Romania's accession to the Council of Europe represented a first step towards returning to the European family, the moment celebrated this year being a very good occasion of evaluation and recognition of our country's evolution over the years. All the internal transformations under the influence of the Council's institutions and bodies, determined the consolidation of Romania as a modern state, which can now transfer knowledge and good practices to other states. As for the influence of the European Court of Human Rights over the Romanian justice, it is a visibly positive one urging to a preventive approach rather than a reactive one.

The Council of Europe promotes unity for several fundamental values such as democracy, pluralism, tolerance, non-discrimination on different criteria. The priorities of the Armenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers focus on the same ideas, supporting reforms and third countries.

The future of the Council of Europe, as it was pointed out by Mr. Gyorgy Frunda, will surely be interesting, considering that there is a competition with the European Union. In his view, the main attribution related to justice should remain at the Council, while the EU should focus on economy, finance and politics, without any need for additional institutions to overlap with the Council's institutions.

The conference was closed with a series of short-movies released by the Council of Europe about the organization's history, role and attributions, along with the prize awarding ceremony for the winner and other three participants of the essay competition. This event represented a good opportunity to present the positive aspects of the evolution of Romania, bringing out the Council's role in democracy consolidation and in human rights compliance in Romania.

Ana-Maria Anghelescu, intern

opinion

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## The G20 Saint Petersburg Summit – A Step Forward?

The G20 Leaders' Summit, one of the most important diplomatic events of the year, took place on 5-6 September in Saint Petersburg. As was the case with the previous editions, 2013 was also defined by a fragile economic environment (to say the least), turning the meeting into a great opportunity for the most developed countries' leaders to make important progress on this matter. However, the event did not quite rise up to the expectations, but it will not be soon forgotten either.

The G20 Forum was created with the aim of improving international economic cooperation, regulating financial markets, as well as influencing economic policy at global scale. The G20's major achievements include strengthening the role of emerging economies, such as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), reforming international financial institutions or improving the quality of financial regulations in economies affected by the crisis. among others<sup>1</sup>.

However, in 2013, the discussions on purely economic topics have been overshadowed by the Syrian crisis. As a result of the massive coverage in the media prior to the summit and acknowledgement of the participants' positions on Syria,

<sup>1</sup> Details here: [http://www.g20.org/docs/about/part\\_G20.html](http://www.g20.org/docs/about/part_G20.html)



the fact that the debates on the military intervention have dominated the final evening's dinner came as no surprise. The discussions were, in fact, passionate statements of the leaders, who still saved the essential for the bilateral meetings, though. During the official dinner, Barack Obama reaffirmed his strong belief that a military intervention in Syria as a response to the alleged use of chemical weapons against protesters is necessary. The French President, François Hollande, and David Cameron, the British Prime Minister were on the same side. Vladimir Putin disapproved the idea of a punitive action and called for a peaceful solution, thus gaining support of several European states, such as Germany. The European

Union's foreign policy should be a homogeneous one and this kind of divergence of opinions could weigh heavily on its image.

On the economic side, one aspect which escaped media attention was the agreement of the 5 BRICS on creating a \$100 billion fund (China alone contributing with \$41 billion), with the purpose of stopping or controlling a possible currency crisis. Although it does not offer a guarantee for a favourable outcome, this fund is a kick to the Bretton Woods institutions (the International Monetary Fund and World Bank). In other words, the emerging markets would rather not go to the IMF in the event of severe pressure on their national currencies. This coalition raises another serious issue - coordination with the IMF - whose presence in Europe is contested in various groups. Therefore, maximum caution in tackling such regional funds is recommended.

Another element that raised a few eyebrows in the end was the Leaders' Declaration itself<sup>2</sup>. Although it is an extremely intricate and ambitious document, clearly the result of a titanic work, there are some who claim that, in fact, it does not say much. It contains various topics, such as sustainable economic growth, youth unemployment, long-term financial investment, corruption, development, energy or climate change. Three action plans were adopted during the summit. First, the *Saint Petersburg Action Plan* was conceived as a boost for economic development and job creation. Second, the *Saint Petersburg Development Outlook* is intended to improve food security, financial inclusion, infrastructure and development. Third, the *Saint Petersburg Anti Corruption Action Plan* focuses on combating bribery, tackling corruption in high-risk sectors, and strengthening international cooperation and transparency in the fight against corruption. The Leaders' Declaration is thought to carry on the endeavours of the passed summits. Unlike the Pittsburgh and Cannes declarations for instance, this year's declaration does not benefit from the vision and clear objectives that defined those of the previous years.

The next G20 summit will take place in November 2014 in Brisbane, Australia. This year's event marked a change of pace in the most developed countries leaders' meetings. It also drew a lot of negative opinions, though it was not completely bereft of progress. In the end, constructive criticism could serve as an impulse for the world's rulers towards taking advantage of this forum in order to increase cooperation in the economic sphere as well as in its related fields.

Anca Dragu, intern

<sup>2</sup> Details here: <http://www.g20.org/load/782795034>

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